

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A helicopter bucket comprising:

a fluid holding vessel, having a bottom, suspended from the helicopter; and

a ~~submersible high volume, low head axial flow~~ pump mounted adjacent the bottom of the holding vessel for drawing fluid from a fluid source and delivering the fluid into the holding vessel, ~~the axial flow pump extends along a central axis between an open upper end and an opposite open lower end serving as an inlet for the axial flow pump.~~
2. (original) The helicopter bucket of claim 1 further comprising a means for releasing fluid from the vessel.
3. (original) The helicopter bucket of claim 2 wherein the means for releasing fluid from the vessel comprises a valve.
4. (original) The helicopter bucket of claim 3 wherein the valve comprises an inner assembly, the inner assembly comprising a base plate spaced apart from a top plate, the base plate and the top plate defining therebetween an open side portion of the inner assembly, the base plate defining an outlet; and, an outer assembly comprising solid side walls, the outer assembly being movable with respect to the inner assembly between an open position and a closed position, an upper portion of the solid side walls being adapted to sealably cooperate with the top plate only when the outer assembly is in the closed position, a lower portion of the solid side walls being adapted to sealably cooperate with the base plate only when the outer assembly is in the closed position, wherein in the open position flow through the valve is permitted through the open side portion and the outlet of the outer assembly, and in the closed position flow through the valve is prevented by sealing engagement

between the solid side walls of the outer assembly and the top plate and by engagement between the solid side walls and the base plate of the inner assembly.

5. (currently amended) The helicopter bucket of claim 1 wherein the ~~axial-flow~~ pump is powered by a power source.
6. (original) The helicopter bucket of claim 5 wherein the power source is the helicopter's electrical system.
7. (currently amended) The helicopter bucket of claim 5 wherein the power source is ~~the helicopter's~~ a hydraulic system.
8. (original) The helicopter bucket of claim 5 wherein the power source is a battery.
9. (currently amended) The helicopter bucket of claim 1 wherein the ~~axial-flow~~ pump is mounted inside of the bottom of the holding vessel.
10. (currently amended) The helicopter bucket of claim 3 wherein the ~~axial-flow~~ pump is mounted inside of the valve.
11. (currently amended) The helicopter bucket of claim 1 wherein the ~~axial-flow~~ pump is mounted outside of the bottom of the holding vessel.
12. (currently amended) The helicopter bucket of claim 1 wherein the ~~axial-flow~~ pump is moveable to a lowered position below the bottom of the holding vessel.
13. (currently amended) The helicopter bucket of claim 12 further comprising a hose attached to the upper end of the ~~axial-flow~~ pump and the inside of the holding vessel, the hose being of sufficient length so that fluid may be delivered into the holding vessel when the ~~axial-flow~~ pump is in the lowered position.

14. cancelled

15. (currently amended) The helicopter bucket of claim ~~[[14]]~~ 12, further comprising a water proof power cable connected to the pump wherein the power cable is of sufficient length so that power may be delivered to the pump ~~motor~~ when the ~~axial-flow~~ pump is in ~~[[a]]~~ the lowered position.

16. (currently amended) The helicopter bucket of claim 1 further comprising a protective guard attached adjacent the lower end of the ~~axial-pump~~ to protect the ~~axial-pump~~ from damage during operation.

17. (currently amended) The helicopter bucket of claim 1 further comprising a load cell in communication with the ~~axial-flow~~ pump for signaling the ~~axial-flow~~ pump to automatically stop drawing fluid into the holding vessel when a predetermined amount of fluid has been drawn into the holding vessel.

18. (original) The helicopter bucket of claim 1 further comprising a load cell in communication with the helicopter for providing an operator of the helicopter a representation of an amount of fluid drawn into the holding vessel.

19. (currently amended) The helicopter bucket of claim 1 further comprising a level switch in communication with the ~~axial-flow~~ pump for signaling the ~~axial-flow~~ pump to automatically stop drawing fluid into the holding vessel when a predetermined amount of fluid has been drawn into the holding vessel.

20. (original) The helicopter bucket of claim 1 further comprising a level switch in communication with the helicopter for providing an operator of the helicopter a representation of an amount of fluid drawn into the holding vessel.

Claims 21-31 are cancelled.

32. (new) The helicopter bucket of claim 1 in which the fluid holding vessel is formed with rigid side walls.

33. (new) The helicopter bucket of claim 32 in which the fluid holding vessel includes a top.

34. (new) The helicopter bucket of claim 1 in which the fluid holding vessel is formed with non-rigid side walls.

35. (new) The helicopter bucket of claim 34 in which the fluid holding vessel includes a top.